



# PDC NEWS

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711 Capitol Way, Room 206  
Olympia Washington

## Public Disclosure Commission

Christine Yorozu, Chair  
Gerry Marsh, Vice-Chair  
Lois Clement, Secretary  
Susan Brady, Commissioner  
Ronda Cahill, Commissioner

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### Commission Adopts New Threshold for Reporting Occupation and Employer Information

The Public Disclosure Commission, on a 3-2 vote, adopted amendments to existing rules which changed the threshold at which campaigns report information concerning an individual contributor's occupation and employer. The current threshold, adopted in 1993, was set at contributions of \$100 or more. Today's action changes that threshold amount to more than \$100. Commissioners Lois Clement and Ronda Cahill opposed the revision.

A representative of the League of Women Voters of Washington, Cherie Davidson, expressed to the Commission that it might be time to consider a change that reflects the inflation of campaign costs. Davidson stated that if this change is proposed in order to make running for office less cumbersome, we believe that it has some merit. She said, "We are just unsure whether the amounts proposed are meaningful today with the tremendous increase in campaign spending."

The issue had been raised by State Representative David Schmidt who indicated that the current rule of identifying occupation and employer information at \$100 or more added to the already heavy workload of volunteer campaign treasurers.

The Commission also made changes to PDC forms C3, C4, Schedule B and Schedule L, repealed PDC form C4abb and an unnecessary electronic filing rule and amended the rule on PDC form C7 to reflect current and future changes in contribution limits triggering the annual report of major contributors.

- **Amended WAC 390-16-031 Forms for Statement of Contributions Deposit.** This amendment reflects the new reporting threshold for reporting occupation and employer information, adds a space to include the date of election and clarifies that paper amendments to the form should be submitted on 8 x 11 white paper.
- **Amended WAC 390-16-041 Forms – Summary of Total Contributions and Expenditures.** This amendment eliminates the C4abb reporting form that is no longer needed, changes PDC forms Schedule B and Schedule L to conform with the new threshold for reporting occupation and employer information, adds a space to include the date of election and clarifies that paper amendments to the form should be submitted on 8 x 11 white paper.
- **Repealed WAC 390-16-190 Electronic Filing.** The repeal results from statutory changes under RCW 42.17.3691 requiring electronic filing by certain candidates and political committees. This rule is no longer needed.
- **Amended WAC 390-16-071 Annual report of major contributors and personas making independent expenditures.** This amendment incorporates a reference to WAC 390-05-400 in WAC 390-16-071 rather than a current specific dollar amount. The proposed change would eliminate the need to revise WAC 390-16-071 when the Commission adjusts the Initiative 134 dollar amounts in accordance with RCW 42.17.690.

## Advisory Matter

The Commission adopted amendments to a prior PDC Interpretation (01-01) involving the participation in fund raising events by state officials during Legislative Freeze periods. The Commission amended the language to recognize that local office candidates (who do not hold state office) are not subject to the Session Freeze provisions under RCW 42.17.710 and the language that says a state official's name cannot be featured in candidate's fundraiser invitation. This amendment would allow a state elected official to be included on a fundraising invitation for a candidate and clarifies that if a political party distributes a Lincoln or Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner invitation listing the names of state elected officials who will attend, that listing by itself does not mean that the officials have solicited or accepted contributions for the party. See PDC Interpretation 01-04 for more details.

## Enforcement Action

The Commission rejected a proposed stipulated agreement between the staff of the PDC and James White, Mayor of the City of Kent and requested the enforcement matter be held over until the January 22, 2001 meeting. White is charged with violating the law by knowingly soliciting contributions from employees of the City of Kent and by using public facilities to assist his campaign for re-election as Mayor of Kent.

The Commission also levied a civil penalty against Lawrence Soriano, candidate for Seattle School Board, for violating RCW 42.17.040, 42.17.080 and 42.17.090 by exceeding limits of the Mini reporting option. Mr. Soriano was fined \$1,000 with \$500 suspended if no future violations of RCW 42.17 occur during the next four years.

## Request for Review

The Commission reduced the civil penalty from \$250 to \$100 for **Charles Styger, School Director, Napavine School District #14**, who was found in violation of RCW 42.17.240 at a brief enforcement hearing on July 30, 2001 for failing to file a statement of personal financial affairs.

## Request for Reconsideration

**Gary Morgan, Candidate for City Council, City of Brier**, was found in violation of RCW 42.17.240 at a brief enforcement hearing on September 24, 2001 for failing to file a statement of personal financial affairs and was assessed a \$100 civil penalty. His request for reconsideration was denied.

**David Neizwaag, Commissioner, Ritzville Park and Recreation District #4**, was found in violation of RCW 42.17.240 at a brief enforcement hearing on July 30, 2001 for failing to file a statement of personal financial affairs and was assessed a \$100 civil penalty. His request for reconsideration was denied.

**Samuel Udom, Candidate for City Council, City of Tukwilla**, was found in violation of RCW 42.17.240 and RCW 42.17.040 at a brief enforcement hearing on September 24, 2001 for failing to file a statement of personal financial affairs and failure to file a candidate registration (PDC form C1). He was assessed a \$150 civil penalty. His request for reconsideration was denied.

**Cecil Stuurmans, School Director, Coupeville School District #204**, was found in violation of RCW 42.17.240 at a brief enforcement hearing on July 30, 2001 for failing to file a statement of personal financial affairs and was assessed a \$100 civil penalty. His request for reconsideration was denied.

## Reporting Modifications

The Commission granted a partial reporting modification of the information required on the Personal Financial Affairs Statement to Steve Hill, Regent, Washington State University and exempted the reporting of business and governmental customers of the Weyerhaeuser Company, Seattle Symphony Orchestra and Corporate Council for the Arts, entities of which he is a director, officer or trustee.

The Commission renewed, with minor changes, a previous reporting modification for the IBEW Local 77 PAC.

The Commission meeting materials may be found at [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov) under **Commission Meetings** at **Meeting Agendas and Materials**. For additional information concerning these issues contact Doug Ellis, Director of Public Outreach, at (360) 664-2735, toll free 1-877-601-2828 or e-mail at [dellis@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:dellis@pdc.wa.gov).